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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

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Ereli: US Delegation's Travel to North Cyprus Not against the Law - Aksam
Diyarbakir on Security Alert for Erdogan's Visit - Sabah
Racist Attack in Berlin: 8 Killed, Including 4 Children - Aksam
Chirac Assures Papadopoulos: Turkey Will Recognize Nicosia - Hurriyet
Rehn: EU Entry Talks with Turkey Will Kick Off October 3 - Milliyet
Iran Launches Military Operation against Kurdish Militants - Sabah

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A Second US Delegation in Turkish Cyprus - Yeni Safak
Erdogan to Hold Terror Summit with Turkish Intellectuals Today - Cumhuriyet
Diyarbakir Goes on 'Emergency Rule' Ahead of Erdogan Visit - Cumhuriyet
US to Reinforce Troops in Iraq in October - Yeni Safak
A Constitution to Divide Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Racists Set Fire in Berlin Muslim Neighborhood, 8 Killed - Yeni Safak
Rumsfeld Blames Iran for Allowing Arms Transfer to Iraq - Cumhuriyet
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Britain to Set Up 'Terror Courts' - Yeni Safak
Famine Threatens North Korea - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

DAS Bryza on PKK, Iraq: CENTCOM Commander General John Abizaid and the US military commander in Europe, Marine General James Jones will soon visit Ankara to discuss military measures for combating PKK terrorists in northern Iraq, papers report, quoting remarks by DAS Matt Bryza to VOA Radio Tuesday. Bryza said that the US, Turkey and Iraq had agreed at a three-party security summit in Washington last weekend to enhance cooperation against the terrorist PKK threat in northern Iraq. Bryza added that the security talks in Washington had focused on the monitoring, identification and capturing of the PKK militants. Bryza said that new steps were needed to strengthen the Iraqi democracy and judiciary instead of making hasty moves against the PKK. 'Iraq has to solve its own problems before extending support to its neighbors,' he stressed. In response to a question about a possible Turkish military hot pursuit against the PKK militants in Iraq, Bryza said that Turkey already had 1,500 troops in northern Iraq. 'I don't understand what the Turkish side means by hot pursuit,' Bryza said. Bryza noted that the next three-party security talks will be held in October.

US Promises to Meet Turkish Expectations on the PKK: The mass appeal/sensationalist "Aksam" Ankara bureau chief Ismail Kucukkaya claims in a news commentary today that the United States was preparing to take measures to cut financial flows to the PKK from Europe. A high-level source from the US Embassy in Ankara noted the capture of Abdullah Ocalan, stressing that only the United States supported Turkey's struggle against terror, says the "Aksam" report. The US official said that they knew Turkey's sensitivities on the issue, that they had forgotten the March 1 crisis, and that they wanted to make a fresh start with Turkey. The US needs Turkey, and Turkey has a strategic partnership with the US, the official emphasized, adding that the US would

take no steps in the region without consulting Turkey. The official said that US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Nancy McElroy told PM Erdogan at a meeting on Monday that the US was making 'serious preparations' that cannot be shared with the public for the time being with regard to the PKK issue. 'We are facing serious hardships in Iraq. Our troops get killed there. As a country struggling with terror, we are aware of your expectations and we will meet them,' "Aksam" quotes the US official as saying.

Grossman Interview with "Milliyet": The following is a summary of the Grossman remarks in an interview carried today in "Milliyet."

'I don't agree with the US observers who think that Turkey has not displayed a high profile in the struggle against global terror and radical Islam after September 11. Turkey has taken the ISAF command in Afghanistan twice. Not only the Turkish military work against terror, but the speech delivered by FM Gul against violence and extremist views in Tehran confirms a political attitude as well.'

'It will be the Turks who decide on how they will live. For us, it is important that a secular democracy is working in Turkey. The greatest of all modernist experiments, whether a country with a Muslim majority can also be democratic and secular, continues in Turkey. My response to that question will be 'yes.' I think that the greatest Turkish contribution to global civilization will be to show that Turkey can make it.'

'I don't see a possibility that the regime in Turkey will change in the direction of an Islamic state. However, the final decision on this issue will be determined by the Turkish nation. Many nations around the world are seeking a balance between secularism and piety. We are a secular nation as well, but religion has a place in our political life, which it doesn't have in Turkey. This doesn't make us better or worse, more secular or less; it just makes us American.'

'The vision that can serve as an alternate to the AK Party vision in Turkey has presented a fractured picture thus far. Those who will have to create such an alternate vision are wasting time by fighting each other instead of offering a positive vision. I have always thought that instead of being a party to the national debate on Turkey's future, other political parties are wasting lots of time by fighting among themselves or with each other.'

'The Americans want strong democratic institutions in Turkey, but with which political parties and leaders depends on the Turks. The situation that makes the AK Party like a single party is something that was brought about by voters. Therefore, we naturally do not question it.'

'PM Erdogan's choice to pursue a full membership in the EU, putting among his priorities establishment of a good relationship with the US, inviting the people in the north of Cyprus to vote for the Annan Plan, and following a successful economic program, were positive steps. It was also positive that when he met with President Bush during his Washington visit, Erdogan spoke in favor of Turkey-US ties and stressed that the two countries have to become strategic partners. With regard to Turkey's strategic interests, PM Erdogan is following foreign policy lines based on healthy judgments. Those lines are EU membership, a close relationship with the US, and relations with Israel.'

'For long years, we have said that the solution to Turkey's problems required more democracy, not less. One day, that democracy brought Mr. Erbakan to power. I decided that the Turkish voters' decision should be respected and worked to tell Mr. Erbakan the importance of US-Turkey ties.'

'It's not true that the US gave direct or indirect support to the military or the bureaucracy for toppling Erbakan during the February 28 process in Turkey. We are happy to see that today Turkey is a more democratic nation compared to those days.'

'Turkey's democratic evolution has changed the military a great deal. The Turkish government's proposal to support the Annan Plan in Cyprus was a significant sign of the evolution in civilian-military relations in Turkey.'

'During my first assignment in Turkey in 1989, there were only two TV channels. Today, there are dozens. Very few Turks used to go abroad then, and few companies had invested in Turkey. In 1989, you could not even spell the word 'Kurdish.' It is not a that remote past.'

'There are still lots of things to do for Turkish democracy. There is still the issue of protecting human rights. The protection of journalists and religious freedoms are also

serious issues. Halki Seminary is a specific example of the continuing challenge for democracy Turkey.'

US Congressional Staffers in Turkish Cyprus: On Tuesday, a seven-member delegation of US Congressional staffers met with Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat in Lefkosa. No public statements were made after the meeting. The group later called on 'TRNC Foreign Minister' Serdar Denktas. 'It is important that the Americans see what is going on in Cyprus,' Denktas said after the meeting. The Americans will meet leaders of political parties and NGOs before leaving the 'TRNC' on August 14.

Cicek on Government-Military Ties, Terrorism: Justice Minister and Government Spokesman Cemil Cicek said that there is no difference of opinion between the Turkish government and the military with regard to combating terrorism. Cicek told the all-news channel NTV Tuesday that if necessary, the government will sort out the shortcomings in existing laws to counter terrorism. Cicek was speaking in response to TGS Chief General Ozkok's statement that the military's authority on security issues had been crippled by regulatory changes. Cicek said that the Turkish government and the military are on the same side in fighting terrorism, and that there is no need to hold a special security summit. Cicek also said that Turkey is now working to cut the financial support for terrorism. 'We expect the EU to cooperate on this issue rather than simply sending condolences to Turkey,' Cicek stressed.

Erdogan to Visit Diyarbakir: Papers expect Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan to issue a call for unity during his visit to Diyarbakir on Friday. Dailies report that people in the region say that new dams, hospitals, and schools are desperately needed to help improve the situation. On Wednesday, the PM will discuss the southeast with a group of Turkish intellectuals who earlier called on the PKK to lay down its arms. The intellectuals will ask Erdogan to lower the 10 percent election threshold to 5 percent, improve ties with municipalities controlled by pro-Kurdish DEHAP, declare an amnesty for those who have not been involved in terrorist actions, speed up the return of displaced people to their villages, and develop economic, political, and cultural projects to sort out the problems in southeast. The activists will also advise Erdogan to examine the cases of the IRA and ETA. The EU expects efforts by the Erdogan Government to achieve a breakthrough in region, according to "Yeni Safak."

AKP MP Report on Southeast Turkey: AKP lawmaker Mahfuz Guler said in a report to Prime Minister Erdogan that declaring a state of emergency in the southeastern provinces of Tunceli, Diyarbakir, and Bingol would be a 'big mistake,' "Hurriyet" reports. 'If emergency rule is declared, the region will be isolated from the world and mystery killings will be seen again,' the Guler report said. It noted that 30 economic packages released thus far have yielded no results, and that there are still thousands of unemployed youth in the region. Despite lucrative incentives offered by the government, businessmen are reluctant to invest in the southeast, according to the report. The report claimed that the PKK is trying to block Turkey's EU entry by provoking Turkey through terrorist attacks to declare emergency rule on the eve of October 3. The report stressed that paving more roads in the southeast would help to prevent PKK landmine attacks. It also claimed that people in the region are happy with moves for more democratization and human rights, and added that support for the PKK has declined.

Trial of Turkish Academic in Yerevan: Thirteen Turkish intellectuals and academics have sent a letter to Armenian President Robert Kocharian to demand the release of Turkish researcher Yekta Turkyilmaz, who was detained in Yerevan last month on charges of attempting to smuggle antique books out of the country. The first hearing for Turkyilmaz, a Turkish national of Kurdish extraction, will be held on Friday. He is facing between four and eight years in prison. The letter said that Turkyilmaz, a doctoral student at Duke University in the US, was among the few Turkish academics who maintained an impartial stand with regard to the 'events of 1915.' The Turkish Embassy in Tbilisi has also asked for the release of Turkyilmaz, saying that he bought the books from a second-hand book dealer in Yerevan. Human rights activists and officials from the US Embassy in Yerevan attended the opening session of the Turkyilmaz trial on Tuesday. More than 200 academics in the United States, Turkey, and Armenia have signed an open letter to President Robert Kocharian, calling for his release. Bob Dole, a former pro-Armenian member of the US Senate, wrote to Kocharian last week, arguing that detaining Turkyilmaz on grounds 'as dubious as these' called into question Armenia's commitment to democracy. The Armenian Helsinki Committee said that Turkyilmaz is among the few Turkish historians who question Ankara's official line on the 1915-17 mass killings and deportations of Armenians by Ottoman forces.

Protest March for Closure of Incirlik Airbase: "Cumhuriyet"
reports that several democratic organizations and NGOs will hold a march from Istanbul to Incirlik Airbase in Turkey's southern province of Adana from August 26-28. The groups said in a statement Tuesday that they will demand the closure of Incirlik Airbase, a symbol of 'collaboration' between the Turkish military and US policies.

Turkish Police Tip Off Israel on Terror Threat in Turkey:
Dailies report Israel's anti-terror chief Danny Ardit as saying that Israel has warned its nationals against traveling to Turkey after receiving warnings from the Turkish police that al-Qaida affiliated militants would attack resorts densely populated by foreign visitors. Over the weekend, the Israeli government rerouted a total of six Israeli cruise liners with thousands of passengers on board away from Turkey's Mediterranean coast to northern Cyprus, citing 'grave' security threats. Meanwhile, Turkish police captured 10 terror suspects from a religious group and seized C-4 explosives and a zodiac boat during security operations in Antalya last week. Papers say the suspects are the members of the "Selam" wing of the Hizbulah organization. Israeli press reported over the weekend that the cruise liners could be attacked by small boats packed with explosives, similar to the attack against the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000.

Police Capture Terror Suspects: Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah said on Tuesday that the two men killed by a premature blast during the manufacturing of a bomb in the Zeytinburnu district of Istanbul last weekend were militants of the PKK. Cerrah also said that four suspected PKK militants had been detained in connection with a bombing attack on July 23 outside a cafe in Istanbul in which a waiter and a Dutch tourist were injured. Cerrah added that police seized 1.8 kg of plastic explosives, detonators and electronic circuits used in bomb making at the suspects' homes.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Terrorism

"The Reality about the New Iraq"
Sami Kohen observed in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (8/10): "While the constitution process is underway in Iraq, all indicators suggest that Iraq is eventually going to be both federal and Islamic. Iraq is currently undergoing a complex and bloody transition period. Once that is over, there will be more clear clues to the permanent political order in Iraq. . The new constitution apparently does not foresee a 'united' and 'secular' state system for the future of Iraq. It seems that to reach a consensus among the contentious groups, a federal and religiously fundamentalist plan will have to be adopted. . Turkey should take into account the new trends and emerging realities as part of Iraq's rebuilding process. In principle, Ankara does not object to Iraq having a federal system. Keeping Iraq's territorial integrity intact -- more specifically, keeping the de-facto Kurdistan in northern Iraq as part of a unified Iraq -- is the most important point for Turkey. Therefore, a federation that embraces all Iraqi groups should receive Turkey's support as well. . Turkey should facilitate a close dialogue with Iraqi officials and leading groups to support the country's territorial integrity and reduce conflict between the communities. The new realities in Iraq require Turkey to assume an active role in the rebuilding of the country."

"The Impact of Northern Iraq on Turkey's Southeast"
Erdal Safak commented in the mass appeal "Sabah" (8/10): "Recent developments in northern Iraq are a direct concern for Turkey, and have a large impact on the problems in Turkey's southeast region. Fighting against PKK terrorism requires more than security measures, which are already being implemented. There needs to be a thorough discussion and real solutions to the problems faced by people in the southeast. . As one Turkish columnist rightly pointed out, people in the southeast have become alienated due to developments in Iraq that favor of Kurds, including the election of a Kurdish president of the country and the increasingly autonomous status of the Kurdish region. Turkey can only address these developments in northern Iraq by settling its problem in the southeast. Otherwise the people in this region will feel resentment while watching the privileges gained by their brethren on the other side of the border."

"EU Efforts on Counterterrorism Insufficient"
Zafer Atay commented in the economic-political "Dunya" (8/10): "It seems that the ongoing debate among EU countries is between those who have witnessed their own terrorist activity and the others who think the terrorists will never attack their country. The countries determined to fight terrorism are taking their own action without consultation with the EU. France is a good example of this.

Italy also recently approved a new anti-terrorism law. According to the new law, governors will have the authority to deport people who shelter terrorists. It will be interesting to see if the UK will start forcing certain communities to leave the country in the event of more terror attacks in the country. This could be similar to the Ottoman deportations of Armenians in 1915 or US deportations of Japanese in 1941. I am not suggesting that these will necessarily happen. I am just thinking out loud. . On the other hand, Turkey should not expect support from the EU in countering terrorism. PM Erdogan mentioned a few days ago that in one of the Scandinavian countries there is a political party which that financial support to terrorists. You do not need to be a fortune teller to know that he is talking about Sweden, Denmark, or Norway. Norway is not the member of the EU. But terrorist organizations in Sweden and Denmark carry out their activities freely. The PKK has been sheltered in these countries, and has opened cultural offices there. Belgium still refuses to extradite the murderer terrorist Fehriye Erdal to Turkey, with the lame excuse that she did not use an automatic weapon in her crime. Germany ignores Spain's EU arrest warrant. The UK refuses to deport terrorists to Spain and France. It is hard to know for sure, but it looks like some EU countries will not make any effort until they have been attacked directly by the terrorists."

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